



# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# INTRODUCTION

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue is located in the heart of beautiful Leelanau County. Our single fire station is situated next to Victoria Creek in the Polish historical town of Cedar. On April 1, 2016, the Solon/Centerville Fire Department, owned by Solon and Centerville Townships and serving Kasson and Cleveland townships by contract, was reorganized as Cedar Area Fire & Rescue. This new department is governed by an interlocal agreement that includes Solon, Centerville, Cleveland, and Kasson Townships as equal partners. This new inter-local agreement permits a five-member Fire Board to provide guidance to the department and includes one representative from each partner township and a citizen-at-large.

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue is a combination department with full-time and part-time staff that provide all levels of firefighting, emergency medical services and technical skills to our community twenty-four hours a day 365 days a year. With our two-person duty crew, we are able to provide Basic Life Support ambulance transport for EMS calls. For those calls that require a higher level of care than we can currently provide, we receive Advanced Life Support through contracts with Leland Township Fire & Rescue, Mobile Medical Response, and Glen Lake Fire & Rescue.

Fire responses in our jurisdiction are handled with a multitude of specialized equipment including a fire engine, water tanker, wildfire truck, and a Kubota UTV. These vehicles carry specialized equipment which allow us to handle incidents including structural and wildland fires, vehicle accidents, ice and water rescues, wilderness and other types of technical rescues and Hazardous Materials incidents. Our department has an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) rating of 9-10. This rating reflects a multitude of criteria that we use to better provide service to our community.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to our 2021 annual report. We hope in the following pages you will see our dedication to the community and our commitment to providing the best possible service we can. This year our members once again exceeded my expectations and proved their willingness to go the extra mile for our community.

I became your Chief full-time in March of 2021 and prior to that served as the Assistant Chief of Operations. The familiarity I had with the department along with the work of our staff made my transition to Chief smooth and we were able to get to work quickly.

Over the last year we have made many advancements as a department. From technology improvements including a staff management program that allows us to better track our staff schedules and staff cost to a program that allows us to build digital personnel files that makes our licensing and regulatory inspections more efficient. We also made advancements in our training program and our probationary process, making the requirements for completing probation more streamlined and easier to follow.

On top of the technology advancements we achieved this year we made a major advancement in our service delivery. On October 18th we received our final approval to be able to provide advanced life support (ALS) care under the "Bennett Bill". Michigan Public Act 78 of 1997, which is known as the Bennett Bill, allows an agency that operates as a Basic Life Support agency, but meets certain criteria, to operate as an ALS agency part-time. Receiving this approval was a process through the State Public Health Committee and our local Medical Control. Since that approval we have transported many times as the primary ALS provider for our citizens.

I am excited for where we are going in 2022. Our future is bright and with your continued support we will head into 2022 full steam ahead. As I type this our next five year plan is in the works and that will give us a road map for growth over the next few years. There will be more to come on the strategic plan in the coming months.

From the men and women of Cedar Area Fire & Rescue ~ Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Andrew T. Doornbos  
Chief of Department

# **BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue is over 85% funded by contributions from Centerville, Cleveland, Kasson and Solon Townships. The 2021/22 Fiscal Year operating budget totaled \$948,549.53. Of this, \$852,549.60 is contributed by the townships, while the remainder is funded through charges for ambulance transports, utility company standbys, and ambulance standbys at Glen Lake sporting events.

## **EXPENSES**

Over 70% of the operating expenses for CAFR are personnel-related, including wages and benefits for the full- and part-time staff. Other expenses include training, uniforms and personal protective equipment, vehicle and equipment maintenance, medical supplies, fuel, and building maintenance and utilities.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET**

The four townships also contributed a total of \$80,337.12 to the department for capital expenses in the 2021/22 fiscal year. This money is used to pay for new capital equipment, such as apparatus, air packs, EMS equipment, and station equipment. In 2021, capital monies were used for loan payments for the primary ambulance and engine, and to purchase a new air compressor for the fire station.

## **BUDGET CHANGES**

Since 2016, CAFR's budget has increased on a yearly basis. Over the last six years, these increases have allowed the department to transition to a 24/7 staff, hire a full-time fire chief, begin the transition to Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, increase training, and generally improve the department.

# OUR DEPARTMENT



## The Fire Board

Board Chairman: Greg Julian - Kasson Township  
Vice-Chair: Rick Royston - Cleveland Township  
Treasurer: Ron Schaub - Centerville Township  
Secretary: Chris Comeaux - Solon Township  
Member-at-Large: John Depuy



## Administration

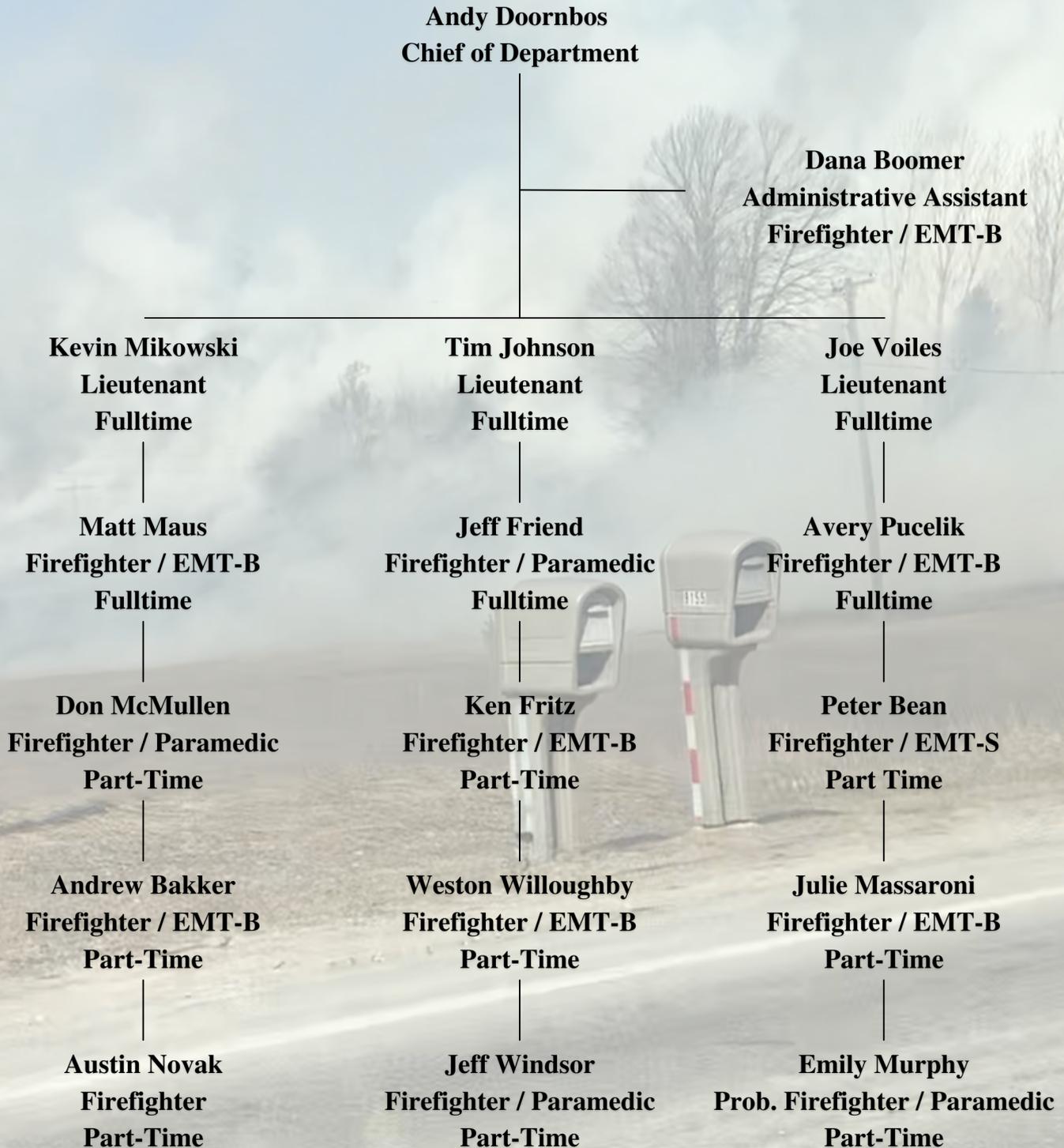
Our department administrators are Chief Doornbos and Administrative Assistant Dana Boomer. Together they handle all wages, benefits, budgetary, statutory and regulatory business for the department as well as responding to incidents.



## Staff

Our dedicated team of Firefighter / EMTs and Paramedics are on duty 24 hours a day - 365 days a year. The Duty Crews are led by our 3 Lieutenants who oversee the daily required duties of each shift such as equipment checks, training, public education and serving as incident commanders for incidents. We have some part-time members that do not work many shifts at the station but respond from home when the need arises.

# ORGANIZATION CHART



# APPARATUS

## Engine 811

The engine is a 2020 Pierce Sabre 4X4. It responds to all fire calls within our response area and is called to neighboring areas for mutual aid. On top of our firefighting equipment it carries 750 gallons of water, extrication equipment for motor vehicle accidents and technical rescue equipment for rope rescues and hazardous materials incidents.

## Tanker 822

The tanker is a 2012 International and our water on wheels. It carries 2,000 gallons of water and some supplemental equipment for fire related incidents. It responds to all structure fire incidents in our district and as mutual aid to our neighbors. It also serves as the back up for our engine should that be out of service.

## Brush 841

Our brush truck is a 2018 Ford F-250 and it responds to all wildland fire incidents. It also serves as the tow vehicle for our UTV. Brush 841 responds as a mutual aid resource and has responded as far as Karlin to assist with large wildfires. It carries 200 gallons of water and other specialized wildland fire fighting equipment.

# APPARATUS

## Kubota 881

Our Kubota is a 2015 XT 900. It is equipped with tracks that allow us to navigate areas that the original tires would not. It responds to all wildfire incidents and as a support vehicle for technical rescues. It carries 50 gallons of water and wildland firefighting equipment.

## Ambulance 891

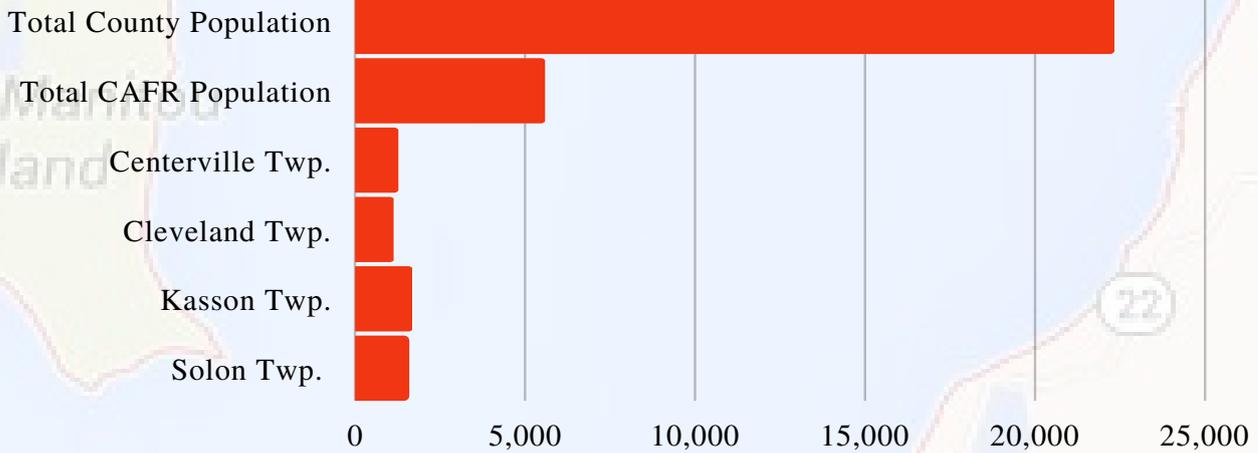
Ambulance 891 is a 2019 PL Custom F-450 chassis. It is our primary ambulance and carries some light rescue equipment that allows us to handle some small scale incidents without having to bring other apparatus with us.

## Ambulance 892

Ambulance 892 is a 2012 American Rescue International chassis. It serves as our backup ambulance but it can respond to incidents as a second ambulance should we receive multiple calls for service at once and have the staff to respond with it.

# COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

## POPULATION



**5,555** OUR POPULATION AS OF THE 2020 CENSUS

**35%** TOTAL COUNTY LAND MASS WE COVER

As of the 2020 Census Leelanau County is home to a population of 22,301 residents. Our four townships make up 5,555 residents which is an increase of 132 residents over the last ten years. These numbers don't truly represent our population, though, as we have many seasonal homes that add to our call volume but are not represented as year round residents. There are 4,980 residential properties in our primary response area and roughly half (49.75%) do not have a principal residence exemption according to the Leelanau County Equalization Department. This means that nearly half the homes in our area are second/vacation homes.

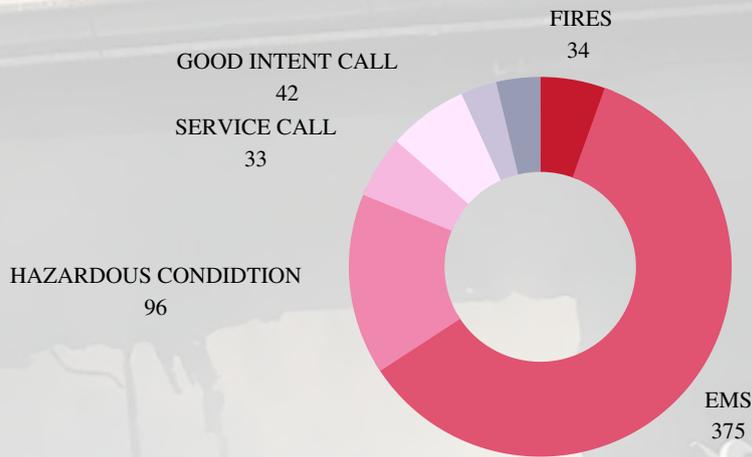
**25%** OF THE COUNTY POPULATION ARE OUR RESIDENTS

**173** SQUARE MILES COVERED IN OUR FIRST DUE AREA

# CALLS FOR SERVICE

Cedar Area Fire & Rescue responded to 622 calls for service in 2021, an 8% increase over 2020. That makes 2021 our busiest year ever! Another trend we saw this year was an increase in overlapping calls. 12% of our calls in 2021 were overlapping, up from 6% in 2020. The agreed-to 2023 staffing increase from two to three person crews 24 hours a day will also give us more ability to cover our overlapping calls. We are appreciative of our neighbors' willingness to help us in the event we have multiple calls at once but longer response times to those incidents could be detrimental to the outcome of the call.

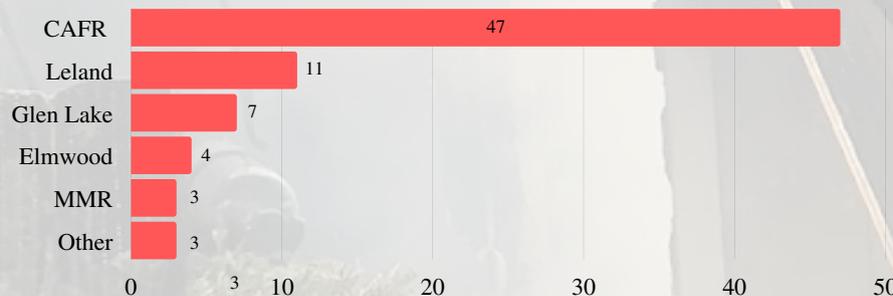
## 2021 INCIDENTS BY MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE



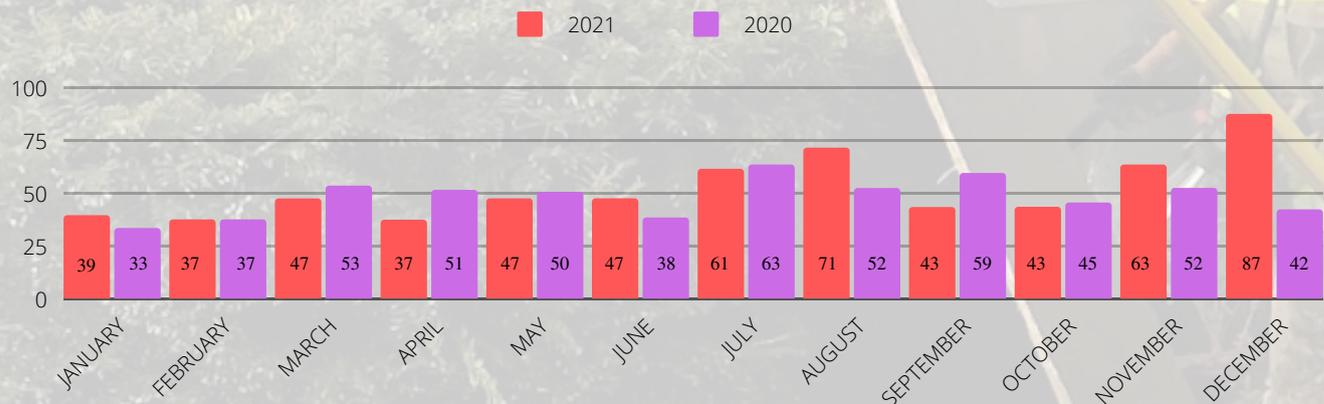
## INCIDENTS BY TOWNSHIP

Centerville	146
Cleveland	138
Kasson	127
Solon	182
Mutual Aid	29

## RESPONDING AGENCIES TO 2021 OVERLAPPING CALLS



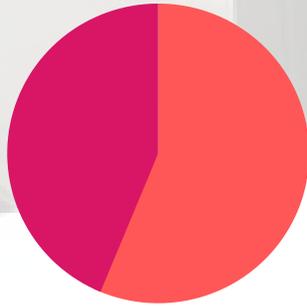
## NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY MONTH



# EMS STATISTICS

## Primary Advanced Life Support Agency Transports Since October 18th, 2021

Other  
Agency's  
28



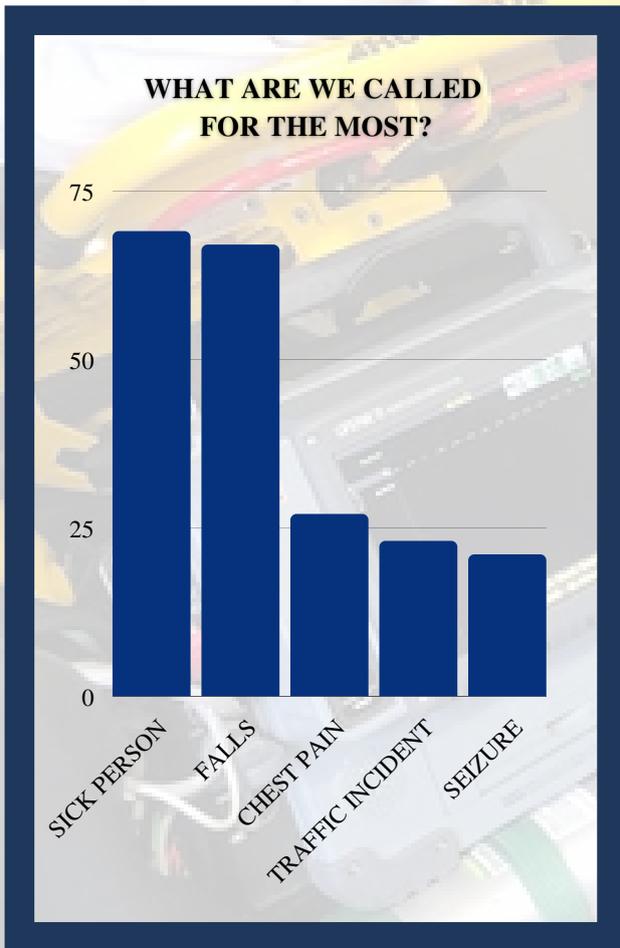
CAFR  
36

# 384

**TOTAL  
PATIENTS  
CONTACTED**

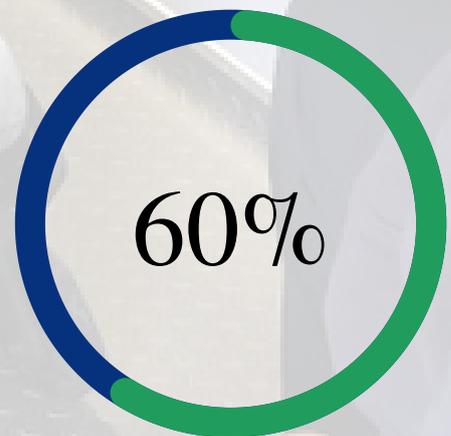
October 18th, 2021 we were able to complete the process to operate under the "Bennett Bill". The Bennett Bill allows us to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) when we have a paramedic on duty. With one full-time Firefighter/Paramedic and four part-time Firefighter/Paramedics on our roster we are able to cover many of our calls as the primary ALS provider. This brings advanced care to our citizens faster than when we have to intercept with another agency. We are still on track for a 2023 transition to be a full-time ALS provider!

### WHAT ARE WE CALLED FOR THE MOST?



# 222

**PATIENTS  
TRANSPORTED BY OUR  
MEMBERS IN 2021**



**PATIENTS OVER THE AGE OF 60**

# NOTABLE INCIDENTS



Our first fire of the year. On the morning of March 3rd, 2021 at approximately 7:30am units from Cedar, Leland, and Glen Lake were called for a reported working fire in a home on Maple City Road. With seamless teamwork this incident was brought under control quickly with the added obstacle of our duty crew not being at the station because they were transporting a patient from another call.

The evening of September 11th brought another incident that required the assistance of multiple departments from the area. This fire on Bodus Road had responders from Cedar, Leland, Glen Lake, Suttons Bay, Grand Traverse Band, Long Lake and Almira Township Fire departments. We were on the scene for approximately 8 hours to bring this difficult incident to a close.



One of the largest wildland fires we had in our district last year was this 7 acre fire outside of Maple City. This fire took multiple agencies and threatened multiple structures. Dry and windy conditions played a factor in the rapid spread of this incident.



# TRAINING

In 2021 our members completed 2965 hours of training, This training includes everything from daily drills in the fire station to EMS courses and other subject matter related to our responses. Over the next few pages you will see the vast range of training your members participated in.



Chief Doornbos completed the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff & Command. This year long program included fire service professionals from all across Michigan. The program focused on emergency services administration and leadership.



Lieutenant Tim Johnson completed Fire Inspector I at the Northwestern Regional Fire Training Center. This program focuses on the fire code and will allow us to provide better guidance to our community on fire safety measures. Lt. Johnson is using this newly gained knowledge to head up our department pre-plan initiative that will give us information relating to many of the occupancies in our primary response area.

Wildland fires are a regular occurrence for us. To prepare for these incidents several of our members participated in two courses, the wildland fire S-130 and S-190 classes. These classes will better equip us to handle the wildland fires that we regularly get throughout the year.

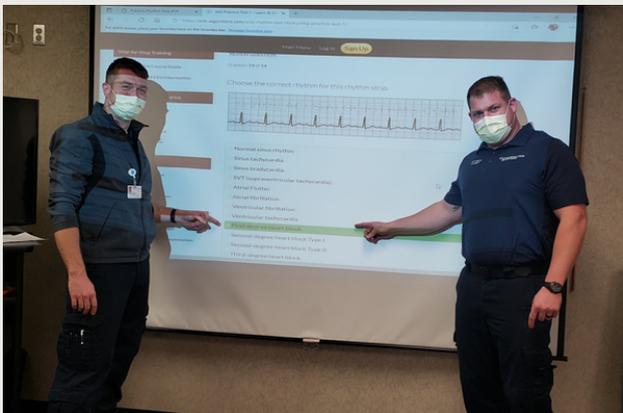


# TRAINING



To increase our capability related to Hazardous Materials we have started to send members to the Michigan State Police & Homeland Security training center for Hazardous Materials Technician qualifications. Firefighter Matt Maus attended last spring and can now help us better plan and respond to incidents involving Hazardous Materials. Our goal is to have all members of the department become highly trained in a specialty like HAZMAT.

Because we work so closely with all of our neighbors we regularly train together. We try to make it happen as often as we can with our staffing constraints and maintaining our ability to answer calls for service. Water supply operations is a large topic for us to train on to make sure we can be as efficient as possible when the call comes.



Two full-time members of the department began attending classes to attain their Paramedic licenses in July 2021. Paramedic students learn and practice advanced skills related to all facets of emergency medicine. This year-long program will result in two additional Paramedic-licensed full-time employees when Lt. Voiles and FF/EMT Maus complete their education and testing in 2022.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION

As much as pandemic restrictions would allow, we have been promoting the programs below. Code Red is a great tool for early notification of emergency information right to your phone and Smart 911 is an online profile for you that is attached to your phone number. It can provide us information that you enter in the event you are not able to relay critical information yourself. We are still completing FireWise site visits to promote defensible spaces around your structures should a wildland fire occur in close proximity to your property. You can also contact us in regard to smoke alarms. We can come and assist you with installation of new alarms, or assist with battery changes in existing alarms.

Contact us at the Station for more information at (231) 228-5396.



**FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

**Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.**

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

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The banner features the cartoon character Sparky, a white dog with black spots, wearing a yellow fire helmet and a red and yellow jacket. He is holding a yellow fire extinguisher. The background is dark blue with orange and white concentric circles around a central white circle, suggesting sound waves.

**DOWNLOAD THE SMART911<sup>®</sup> APP TODAY**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Smart911<sup>®</sup>

The image shows a smartphone displaying the Smart911 app interface. The screen shows a profile for 'Hi, Rebecca' with various emergency services listed and their status.

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Count on CodeRED.  
SIGN-UP TODAY!**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Our Fire Board and Member Township Boards** - An often thankless position, we would not be able to provide the services we do without your continued support and guidance, thank you!

**Dan Leach, Solon Township** - Mr. Leach had served on the board of Cedar Area Fire & Rescue from our inception. In 2021 he decided that it was time to let a new person represent Solon Township on our board. We would like to thank Mr. Leach for his wisdom and guidance in the development of the department we are today!

**Chris Comeaux, Chief of Department (ret.)** - January 8th, 2021 was Chief Comeaux's last official day with CAFR. In his three years leading our department we progressed further than many thought possible. After a short time away, and with Mr. Leach stepping away, Chief Comeaux returned to the department as Solon Township's representative on the board. We look forward to Chief Comeaux's continued guidance!

**Leland Township Fire & Rescue and Glen Lake Fire Department** - LTFR and GLFD not only respond with us as mutual aid partners for fire and rescue incidents but provide ALS intercepts to portions of our area. Thank you Brothers & Sisters of LTFR & GLFD!

**Our mutual aid partners** - Due to our rural area we need assistance from many departments to have successful outcomes for some incidents. Along with Leland and Glen Lake, Elmwood, Long Lake and Almira Townships answer numerous requests for assistance each year. Thank you!

**You, our community** - Without your support through the Cedar Fire & Rescue Association and at the polls we would not have the ability to operate the department we have today. Your support is steadfast and felt by all of our members. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

